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Cimarron Citizen
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EDITORIAL

THE FRENCH ROBBERY

The big robbery which occurred at French last week has been filling the papers throughout the country with various conjectures, various surmises, and each paper has had a different version of the affair to tell to its readers. Some have told one thing, that is about the only part of the affair that they have agreed on. Every little happening and event that could possibly have any connection with the robbery has been dissected and analyzed, every little report has been given credence, and published as authentic, and the result is that the public does not know much about the affair after all. The Citizen may have been as bad as the rest of the papers, to give them all due credit, they none of them published anything that was not given them in good faith by persons who claimed to know what they were talking about. One eye-witness saw the affair this way, and another saw it that way. One man told another something, and this something was passed along by the recipient, and was possibly changed in the telling. And so the rumors and reports were changed and spread, and no one knows just what to say or to think. The Citizen does not at least. Every one is telling what he would have done if he had been one of the gang that committed the robbery, and how he would improve on what had been done. Every one knew just where to look for the offenders, and if he were one of the officers of the law, he could place his hands on the men at once, because could there possibly be any other thing for the robbers to do than what he had figured out what he would have done had he been one of the gang? No, of course not. And yet—but what is the use of going into that?

But what the Citizen started out to say in this article, is not along that line at all. It merely wants to call attention to the utter uselessness of being a robber, or even dishonest. Stop and think of it. Was there ever a great crime committed that remained unpunished? No, assuredly not, and the punishment though it be delayed, is sure to follow. As sure as the force of gravity. If it is not meted out to the offender in this world, it will be in the next. But the Citizen, without attempting to go into the religious questions involved in such a crime, firmly believes that adequate punishment in some form or another will, ever, and always has been, measured out to those committing crime. It merely wants to point out the utter foolishness of offending against the moral and statutory laws of a country, or acting in any way that is not strictly honest.

Take the French robbery for instance. Who among you readers would exchange places with those who performed the act? How many would? Not a single one of you. In the first place, the hand of every man in the country is against the criminals. Every one is, more or less, on the look out to discover them, and every one is anxious that they be brought to justice. Posses have been scouring the country, and detectives are working night and day on clues. The chances are ten to one that they will be apprehended and convicted. In that case the punishment will fit the crime. An offender, no matter how cunning or shrewd he may be, always leaves something behind that will be a clue to who he is, and where he may be. If he is caught, then his visible punishment is in most cases, swift and severe, but if he escapes the clutches of the law for time being, who will say that he is not undergoing punishment, and a severe punishment, during every moment that he retains his freedom. The constant watch upon himself and his actions, is a strain that has been known to break the strongest men. The haunting fear that he may do or say something that will betray him, is ever with him. The deadly expectation of ultimate arrest and conviction is never absent. He dare not seek for sympathy, and he remains suspicious of every little act of kindness, of every act of friendship. He distrusts everyone including himself, and he becomes a prey to his own despondent thoughts. All happiness, and joy of living leaves him, and he

has nothing to look forward to, nothing in his past to rejoice in. He is an outcast, and lonely, without joy or prospect of joy, all because of the haunting fear that his guilt may be found out, though he live ever so exemplary a life after committing his one crime. In nine cases out of ten, he goes from bad to worse, and is at last caught in the toils. If he reforms and tries to live a straight, honest life again, then his conscience troubles him. Men have been known to escape from the law and live an unquestionably upright life for years, only to have their conscience at last force from a confession, preferring rather to take their punishment, as is provided by law, than to longer endure the hell of their own thoughts, and the torture of their own fears. So punishment in one form or another is bound to be meted out to the offender against law and against morals. There is no escape. Many thoughtlessly assert that they would not be a prey to such punishment as has been described, but they are simply mistaken. The strongest of the strong have failed to do otherwise, the most brazen of the brazen have failed in doing what the boaster has asserted he could do. No one is exempt from the rule, no one is immune from the raging, joy and life killing pangs of conscience. This has been proven time and again. As certain as the rule of cause and effect, as sure as the force of gravity, and as true as truth, is the statement that punishment follows crime. There is no exception, and sooner or later punishment will claim the offender. Only the other day, the papers stated that an Iowa man had been arrested in Texas for a murder that had been committed twenty years ago. Think of it. Twenty years of haunting fear, twenty years of self-watching, twenty years of self-reproach, twenty years of hell, and then punishment at last, with more to follow in the next world, if what we are taught is true.

Take it from a business standpoint. The man who is even slightly dishonest hurts his prospects. He may prosper in some measure for a time, but does he prosper at all times. Could he not, by the use of the same talents and strict honesty, have prospered to a larger degree? The Citizen thinks so. The employer needs honest men, the business man will do his business with those in whom he has absolute confidence, and so it goes. Confidence in the other man is the ground on which you do business with him. He may sting you once, but you are apt to see that he does not do it again. By his dishonesty, he loses your confidence and your business. There is always room for honest men, and they get the preference in all things. Why even a thief will deal with an honest man rather than with one of his own kind, if he can. He has no confidence in his fellow thief, and the business of this world is of necessity almost wholly based on confidence and trust. Who can prosper without depending on the honesty of others to some extent. No one can. While you may place your money in the bank, without much reliance on the honesty of the officers of the bank, rather relying upon the protection of the laws of the country, still you must ultimately have confidence in something, and this confidence will probably end by being placed in the judges who must act under the laws. But without confidence in the honesty of the officers of the bank, you do not place your money in its vaults. No one does and the bank goes out of business. Honesty is an asset—and a big one.

Confidence is everything, and one can hardly turn around without it being necessary to have to trust in some one. If people lose confidence in your honesty, your race is run. For these reasons the Citizen believes in honesty in all things.

It was a glorious rain which fell last Friday and Saturday. It was not one of those furious rains that beats everything to the ground, but a long continuous soaking rain that goes into the ground without much waste and running off. This rain, which may possibly mark the beginning of the wet season, was worth thousands of dollars to the farmers and the ranch men of the Cimarron valley,

and before long the country will be blooming like a rose garden.

DAMAGE BY FLOOD

Lives Lost And Much Property Swept Away in Texas Floods

The first train on the Colorado & Southern to arrive here since Saturday from Texas came limping into the station at 9:30 yesterday morning. It was known as No. 7 and was due here at 11:30 Saturday night.

One of the longest bridges in northern Texas, over the Pease river on the Fort Worth & Denver City road, which is the Texas extension of the C. & S., is near Vernon, and went out Saturday night. Since that time passengers, baggage and express were transferred by detouring in wagons about twelve miles where the river was crossed on a wagon bridge which has so far withstood the flood.

The Pease river is six miles wide at this point and besides is a raging torrent, doing great damage to crops and stock, according to railroad men. A large crew of men with bridge supplies were sent from here to the scene of the wash-out but it will take several days to replace the bridge and get the road open. All trains are turned back from the scene of the wash-out after the transfer is made, which is necessarily slow owing to the manner in which the transfer is made.

The flood is general all over northern Texas and extends to Dallas and Waco. It may be weeks before any of the roads running to any of the above points get back on schedule time.

Dallas, Tex., May 25—What may result in one of the most destructive floods in Dallas and vicinity in recent years is threatened today as the result of a very sudden and record-breaking rise in the Trinity river. Already one life is known to have been lost, that section of the city known as the Eagle Ford road is inundated, many families being driven from their homes, and the power plant of the Dallas Street Railway company is under water to the first floor, cutting off all light and electrical current.

The flooded sections is along stretches of low land and the main residences and business sections of the city will in all probability escape the water's invasion.

Reports of loss of life are being brought to the attention of the authorities which, because of the attendant confusion, it is impossible to promptly confirm.

The property loss will be heavy. Those who were driven from their homes were forced to leave all their possessions, many of them barely escaping with their lives. Household goods in many instances were piled high, their owners climbing to the summit of the piles to escape the rapidly encroaching waters.

Guthrie, Okla., May 25—Flood conditions in Oklahoma were still serious today. Notwithstanding there were no further heavy rains in the state since late yesterday all the principal streams continued to rise slowly today, spreading out and covering additional territory, and it was predicted the water would not begin to fall before another twenty-four hours.

No additional loss of life was reported up to early today, but several points were still isolated and full details were lacking.

Railroads over the entire state are practically out of commission. While hundreds of persons have abandoned their homes in the bottoms and are camped on the hills no real distress has been reported.

WHOLE DAMM FAMILY ROUTED OUT BY FIRE

St. Louis, May 25—The whole Damm family were routed out of bed by an early morning fire which played havoc in their home in Lewis place today. An electric iron in a bedroom set fire to the draperies, and the whole room was soon in a blaze. Headed by E. A. Damm, father of the family, Mrs. Damm and the little Damm escaped to the street in night attire.

STRIKE HOLDS OUT

Central City, May 25—One valued at \$2,234 per ton, was taken out of the rich strike in the War Dances mine here today. The vein bears every evidence of being a big one.

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